MARVEL LIMITED SERIES

PSR 2 of 6

MILLIGAN

ROBERTSON

RAMOS

TOXIN™

THE NEW AVENGERS® TIE-IN

SON OF CARNAGE!

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New York City

OKAY. LET'S DO IT.

PLAY TIME?

NO, NO. THIS IS SERIOUS.

IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE OR TWO.

AAGHH

THIS WEIRD TRANSFORMATION.

THIS BIOLOGICAL REVOLUTION.

FROM HUMAN.

TO SYMBIOTE.

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FROM PAT MULLIGAN.

TO TOXIN.

TOXIN: THE DEVIL YOU KNOW

PART TWO: CUT TO THE CHASE

THE BANDAGE THAT *SPIDER-MAN* GAVE ME IS CAKED WITH OLD BLOOD.

THE BLOOD IS *DEGRADED* BUT WILL HAVE TO DO.

I'LL USE IT TO TRACK DOWN A *SUPER-VILLAIN* WHO ESCAPED IN THE *RAFT* BREAKOUT AT *RYKER'S ISLAND*.

WAIT.

THE NOISE IS SOFT. THE DISTURBANCE ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLE.

BUT IT HAS THE UNMISTAKABLE AURA OF *TROUBLE*.

IT'S NOT WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO BE TRACKING. AND I'M NOT A *COP* ANYMORE.

IN FACT, IT'S REALLY NONE OF MY BUSINESS.

COFFE

GROCERY.

COFFE . NEWS

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PU-PLEASE, TAKE WHAT YOU WANT, JUST DON'T... PLEASE...DON'T...

YOU GOT MORE THAN THAT. CHEATIN' MUSLIMS.

ACTUALLY, SIR, WE ARE *HINDUS*. A TOTALLY DIFFERENT THING ALTOGETHER. ISLAM IS MONOTHEIST. WHILE *OUR* RELIGION...

NOT NOW, NEETA. NOT NOW...

LET HER TALK. WE'LL DISCUSS COMPARATIVE RELIGION, *THEN* WE'LL BLOW YOUR--

KKRSSSHHHH

KICE PUFFS

TIPY CRISPS

Half an hour later

IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE OR TWO. THIS TRANSFORMATION FROM SYMBIOTE.

GROCERY. COFFE. NEWS

TO SOMETHING LIKE HUMAN.

DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE SO SORE WITH ME.

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO *APPREHEND* THEM. I KEPT TRYING TO HOLD YOU BACK. BUT YOU WENT COMPLETELY...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

YOU DESTROYED THE STORE! YOU ALMOST TORE DOWN HALF THE BLOCK. ONE OF THOSE ROBBERS IS UNLIKELY TO LIVE.

THE *LUCKY* ONE WILL NEED EXTENSIVE PLASTIC SURGERY.

I COULD SENSE YOUR ANGER AT THEM. SO I HURT THEM. I WAS ONLY TRYING TO PLEASE YOU.

YOU'RE ANGRY AT ME.

YOU THINK?

BUT I ONLY DID TO THEM WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO DO TO IF YOU HAD THE GUTS.

THAT'S NOT TRUE!

BUT YOU DESPISE THEM?

YES!

HATE THEM AND THEIR KIND.

YES! BUT--

SO IT'S GOOD TO HURT THEM.

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.

WHY NOT?

BECAUSE I SAID SO!

TOXIN, GET BACK IN HERE.

I'M YOUR *HOST BODY*. YOU MIGHT NOT LIKE IT, BUT *I* RUN THIS SHOW.

SHOULDN'T... HAVE GOTTEN *SIDETRACKED* LIKE THIS...

MEANT TO BE HUNTING SOMEONE MORE DANGEROUS...MORE *EVIL*...THAN A COUPLA DEAD-BEAT KIDS...

Downtown

IT SURE *SMELLS* DOWN HERE, LULU.

THIS IS HOW *THE MASTER* LIKES IT.

WH-WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO DO?

HE'LL GO THROUGH YOUR DUTIES LATER. DON'T WORRY, WE'RE *ALL* NERVOUS AT FIRST. *ANNIE* HAD A FULL-BLOWN *ANXIETY ATTACK.*

I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

SEE HOW THEY'RE FADING? I USED TO CUT MYSELF ONCE A WEEK, BUT SINCE SERVING THE MASTER I'VE STOPPED. MAYBE I STARTED TO *VALUE* MYSELF...

MASTER, THIS IS *ANTON.* HE'S SIXTEEN YEARS OLD AND AN ACADEMIC HIGH-FLYER. BOTH HIS PARENTS ARE LAWYERS. HE BEGAN SELF-HARMING FOURTEEN MONTHS AGO WHEN HIS GRADES STARTED SLIPPING.

HELLO, ANTON. YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW WE'RE AN *EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES* EMPLOYER.

I TAKE IT YOU'RE NOT SQUEAMISH.

NO

BIG APE

PEP

COME ON, JIM. I'M LATE FOR WORK.

TELL ME WHERE *MY SON* IS AND I'LL LET YOU GO.

I PROMISED GINA I'D TRACK HIM DOWN. THAT POOR GIRL, BRINGING UP A LITTLE BABY WITHOUT HIS DADDY...

I'M SORRY. BUT I PROMISED *PAT*...

SO YOU *DO* KNOW.

WHAT THE--

TELL ME, MEADOWS, OR SO HELP ME GOD--

OKAY, PAT IS IN TROUBLE, BUT NOT THE WAY YOU THINK. ONLY *HE* CAN WORK THIS OUT. TELL GINA HE STILL LOVES HER. HE MISSES HER AND THE KID LIKE CRAZY. HE DIDN'T *CHOOSE* THIS.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WON'T SHOOT YOU?

YOU WERE THIRTY YEARS ON THE FORCE AND NEVER SHOT NO ONE. YOU AIN'T GONNA START NOW...

...ARE YOU?

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND TAKE YOUR SHIRT OFF, ANTON. ALL WHO WISH TO SERVE ME MUST UNDERGO AN *INITIATION.*

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

I-I MET THAT GIRL. *LULU.* SHE SAID YOU U-UNDERSTOOD... PEOPLE LIKE *US.*

WHO ARE PEOPLE LIKE *US?*

SSHHHHHT

UNGGNNN.

P-PEOPLE WHO...SELF-HARM... WHO CUT AND BURN AND BITE...

AND EVERY CUT, EVERY DROP OF BLOOD...IS A *LANGUAGE*... A MEANS OF SAYING WHAT YOU CANNOT OTHERWISE SAY?

SSHHHHHT

OWWW!

Y-YES... THAT'S IT... THAT'S IT...

FOR A BRIEF MOMENT YOU FEEL ALIVE.

IN CONTROL.

SSHHHHHT

AAGHHH!

YES! YES!

THAT WILL BE ALL. FOR *NOW.*

IN EXCHANGE FOR THE TRUTH...I EXPECT UNFLINCHING *LOYALTY,* ANTON.

NOW OPEN YOUR EYES AND PUT YOUR SHIRT ON.

H-HOW? I FELT...I FELT...

YOU FELT YOUR BODY BEING SHREDDED. YOU FELT THE BLADES SLICING INTO YOUR *FLESH.*

BUT THE SHARPNESS OF MY BLADES, THE SURENESS OF MY TOUCH, MEANS THERE'S NO *BLOOD.*

THERE ARE NO *WOUNDS.*

UNFORTUNATELY, I'M NOT ALWAYS AS CAREFUL WITH *MYSELF.*

YOU WILL NEED TO *WORK* TO BE COUNTED AS ONE OF MY CHILDREN.

WASH AND DRY THESE BANDAGES. BY TUESDAY.

NICE *BOD,* BY THE WAY.

I HAVE TO GET ABOVE THE CAR FUMES AND HUMAN CONFUSION.

GET A CLEAR LINE ONTO MY *QUARRY.*

COME ON. LET ME OUT. I CAN HELP YOU. I CAN HELP US.

NO WAY. AFTER YOUR LAST PERFORMANCE YOU'RE *GROUNDED.*

UNTIL...?

UNTIL I *NEED* YOU!

WHY DON'T WE FORGET THIS? WHAT DID THAT RAZOR-FIST GUY EVER DO TO US?

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--

THAT'S RIGHT. I DON'T. SO TELL ME.

SHUT UP! I'M *CONCENTRATING.* I THINK...

I THINK I CAN *FEEL* RAZOR-FIST. *SENSE* HIM.

WHAT YOU DOIN' ON OUR FIRE ESCAPE?

A GOOD QUESTION, MA'AM, AND I KNOW THIS MUST LOOK SUSPICIOUS BUT...BUT I'M UP HERE FOR A VERY IMPORTANT REASON...ONE THAT I'D HAPPILY EXPLAIN TO YOU IN DETAIL IF I HAD A LITTLE MORE TIME...

GEORGE! WE GOTTA ANOTHER WEIRDO OUT HERE!

IT'S LIKE I WAKE UP AND FIND MYSELF ABOUT TO--

BUT THIS TIME. THIS TIME--IT'S A *FOREIGN LANGUAGE*...

ONE I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYMORE.

AWFULLY QUIET IN THERE, ANTON. I TAKE IT YOU'RE STUDYING?

YES, MOM. STUDYING HARD.

YOU KNOW WE'RE ALL EXPECTING GREAT THINGS FROM YOU, SWEETHEART. DON'T DISAPPOINT US, OKAY?

'COURSE, COURSE NOT, MOM. NO INTENTION.

BUT TONIGHT I WON'T BE STUDYING.

TONIGHT I HAVE MORE *IMPORTANT* WORK.

LATER, IF I PROVE MYSELF LOYAL AND WORTHY...

...I WILL BE PROMOTED TO SHARPENING *BLADES.*

MATH WORLD

SNOOPING AROUND LIKE THIS MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER ABOUT YOURSELF?

YES. NOW SHUT UP.

Khaki

THE SCENT IS FAINTER. MUCH FAINTER. BUT HE'S CLOSE...

UGNN!

RAZOR-FIST?

--?

RAZOR-FIST DOESN'T REALLY CARE ABOUT YOU, ANTON. HELP ME, THEN GET ON WITH YOUR LIFE.

MY LIFE? LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY *LIFE*...

I'VE GOT PARENTS WHO DON'T KNOW I *EXIST* EXCEPT FOR A SERIES OF SCHOOL GRADES AND SOMETHING TO SHOW OFF TO THEIR RICH, WHITE FRIENDS. AT SCHOOL THEY THINK I'M WEIRD BECAUSE I LOATHE SPORTS AND LIKE *STUDYING*.

BUT *RAZOR-FIST*...OKAY, HE'S A LITTLE *INTENSE*... BUT AT LEAST HE ACCEPTS ME FOR WHAT I AM.

I WANTED TO *PERSUADE* YOU, ANTON. BUT IF NEED BE I'LL USE *OTHER* TACTICS...

AW! WHAT *IS* THAT?!

THE BLOOD ON THOSE RAGS LED ME TO YOU. I GOT ON A *FALSE TRACK*.

JUST ABOUT THE *UNLIKELIEST* STORY I'VE EVER HEARD. MUCH MORE LIKELY THAT YOU'RE A BURGLAR, OR SOME PERVERT WITH A PENCHANT FOR YOUNG BLACK MALES.

GOODNIGHT, MR. MULLIGAN.

I'VE GOT A MONSTER INSIDE ME. BECAUSE OF THIS MONSTER I HAD TO WALK OUT ON MY WIFE AND BABY. SO YOU SEE, YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH SEEMINGLY INTRACTABLE PROBLEMS.

NOW TAKE ME TO RAZOR-FIST OR I'LL SET MY MONSTER ONTO YOU, AND I WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HE DOES. BECAUSE, SEE, HE'S A *MONSTER*.

IT SMELLS DOWN HERE.

THAT'S HOW *THE MASTER* LIKES IT.

DO YOU, AH, KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *DOING*, MR. MULLIGAN? RAZOR-FIST...HE HAS THESE GREAT BIG RAZORS INSTEAD OF FISTS AND HE...HE--

JUST KNOCK ON THE DOOR AND STEP ASIDE, ANTON. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

ANTON?

OPEN UP, LULU. I WANT TO SEE THE MASTER.

WHO'S THIS? YOU KNOW THE *RULES*.

THAT DOESN'T MATTER. WHERE'S--

KEERSHUNKKKK

GNNN!

--AIEEEE!

OW, JEEZ...THAT SMELL.

A LITTLE *STRONG* FOR YOU?

I FIND IT KEEPS ME ON MY *METTLE*.

AND AFTER *RYKER'S ISLAND*, THE STENCH OF DECOMPOSITION IS ACTUALLY PRETTY *FRAGRANT*.

WH-WHAT *IS* THIS PLACE?

I GOT A LITTLE *SLOW* IN RYKER'S. REFLEXES DULLED. SO NOW I KEEP THEM WELL-HONED.

CATS FOUND IN THE STREET. EVEN A FEW STREET-WALKERS. MOST OF THEM ENTER THE WAY *YOU* DID.

NONE GET OUT.

MEOOOOW

MEEEEEEEEEEEE

OH GOD...

LET ME GO OR...OR ELSE...

OR ELSE *WHAT?*

I'M TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY POUNDS OF SOCIOPATHIC ROCK-HARD MUSCLE AND RAZOR. WHAT ARE *YOU* GONNA DO?

ANTON! PLEASE!

GIVE ME A HAND HERE!

I--

NO, ANTON.

SLSHHHHHHHH

MIGHT HAVE GUESSED. A GUY WHO TUCKS HIS SHIRT INTO HIS UNDERPANTS.

IM DOING CIVILIZATION A *BIG FAVOR* BY KILLING YOU.

WHOAAAA!

WHO THE HELL *ARE* YOU, ANYWAY?

THE GUY WHO'S GONNA TAKE YOU BACK TO *RYKER'S.*

ACTUALLY, I THINK I'LL SLICE YOU LIKE A *HAM.*

C-COME ON, TOXIN, NOW! *NOW! LET'S GO! I NEED YOU!*

WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO? ARE YOU WEARING A *WIRE?*

NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

OWHKK!

THUDD!

WHKKKKKKKK

WE CAN'T LET HIM DIE LIKE THIS. PAT'S A DECENT GUY.

HE FORCED YOU TO BE DISLOYAL TO THE MASTER. HOW DECENT IS THAT? FORGET HIM.

HE'S JUST AN *ADULT.*

I HAD NO IDEA IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS! THE MASTER, I MEAN...I DIDN'T KNOW...

OH, GET REAL, ANTON. HE CALLS HIMSELF *RAZOR-FIST.* WHAT DID YOU *THINK* HE DID?

CHARITABLE WORK FOR THE HOMELESS?

OUT OF MY WAY, LULU.

ANTON!

I'M WARNING YOU...ANY MOMENT NOW I'LL TURN INTO A SLAVERING MONSTER AND PUNCH YOUR LIGHTS OUT.

OF *COURSE* YOU WILL.

SSHHHHHHT

THMMPP

N-NO! I CAN'T LET YOU KILL HIM!

ANTON! DON'T BE A FOOL!

WHAT ABOUT *LOYALTY*, ANTON?

THE CUTS THAT DO NOT WOUND. I UNDERSTOOD YOU, DIDN'T I? BETTER THAN YOU UNDERSTOOD *YOURSELF?*

YES. I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE. DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN--

SUIT YOURSELF. I'LL GO RIGHT THROUGH YOU.

NO.

I WON'T ALLOW IT.

OKAY, TOXIN, LET'S GET TO IT! OR DO YOU WANT TO KILL US *BOTH?*

I'M ON IT, PAT! RELAX!

AGHH

YES, IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE OR TWO.

THIS TRANSFORMATION FROM HUMAN--

TO--?

VERY FUNNY, TOXIN.

VERY FREAKIN' FUNNY.

XIII

The Hand

E E M P I R